

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

JUNE 12, 2007

Rollcall vote 461, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

JUNE 13, 2007

Rollcall vote 462, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 463, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 464, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 465, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPHINE
ELIZABETH SEATON FRANKLIN

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to Dr. Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Franklin. This remarkable woman is celebrating her 80th birthday July 1, 2007. As a founding member and first president of Theta Rho Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Sorority, Dr. Foster has had a monumental role in the Chapter's scholarship work and community service.

Through the Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Foundation, the Theta Rho Omega Chapter has provided funds for academic scholarships. The Chapter has given more than \$90,000 to scholars and community service projects. Dr. Franklin is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and holds a master degree and doctorate degree in education. Throughout her lengthy career, Dr. Franklin has continued to demonstrate a love of education. She has taught in Virginia, Michigan and Chicago. Dr. Franklin's steadfast commitment to others undoubtedly exemplifies her generosity of spirit and dedication to countless educational and humanitarian causes.

Dr. Franklin's birthday on July 1st is special because this gracious and admirable woman has devoted herself magnanimously to helping others. She is recognized by her community, her friends, and her loved ones as a pillar of

strength and compassion. Dr. Franklin's effort to make the world a better place is truly admirable.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO DIRECT THE OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINIS-
TRATION TO ISSUE A STANDARD
REGULATING WORKER EXPO-
SURE TO DIACETYL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency interim final standard, and after 2 years, a final standard to protect workers against a butter flavoring chemical called diacetyl. Exposure to diacetyl has been found to cause a devastating lung disease known as bronchiolitis obliterans, or “popcorn lung.” Diacetyl has been described by NIOSH as causing “astonishingly grotesque” effects in workers' lungs—often in a very short time period.

Dozens of workers at microwave popcorn factories or factories where flavors are produced have become sick, and several have died. Others are awaiting lung transplants. Thousands more workers are exposed at factories that make or use flavorings throughout the country. The Workplace Protections Subcommittee held a hearing in April on OSHA's failure to issue health and safety standards. Eric Peoples, a former employee of a Missouri popcorn plant who is awaiting a double lung transplant, testified that he was never informed of the hazards of diacetyl while working at the plant. “I played by the rules. I worked to support my family. This unregulated industry virtually destroyed my life. Don't let it destroy the lives of others,” Peoples asked the committee.

The interim final standard will apply to the food flavorings industry and the microwave popcorn production and packaging industry. This bill will also require OSHA to issue a final diacetyl standard within 2 years of issuing the interim final standard. The final standard will apply to all locations where diacetyl is processed or used. Although we are expecting OSHA to follow the normal administrative procedures for issuing the final standard, we expect the agency to do whatever is necessary and allowed by the various procedural laws and regulations to ensure that the final standard can be issued within the 2-year deadline. In any case, the interim final standard will remain in effect until the final standard is issued.

It is with some reluctance that I offer this legislation. Over 35 years ago, Congress gave OSHA the authority to address workplace hazards, and gave the agency the ability to issue emergency standards. But OSHA has not acted. OSHA has known that diacetyl causes bronchiolitis obliterans or popcorn lung for over 5 years ever since the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health published evidence in 2002 linking diacetyl to bronchiolitis obliterans, yet OSHA has not even issued an information bulletin. Last year, House Democrats urged the Labor Department to address this serious health hazard.

OSHA has not responded. Also last year, two labor unions, supported by a letter signed by 42 of the Nation's leading occupational health scientists and physicians, petitioned the agency for an emergency standard. OSHA has still not responded to that petition.

The measures required by the bill are feasible and affordable. In fact, they are the same measures already recommended by the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, the main industry association for the flavorings industry, in 2004. The association has voted to support this legislation and the issuance of an OSHA standard.

The measures mandated by this bill are also consistent with recommendations from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, and we expect OSHA to work closely with NIOSH to ensure that the final standard is fully protective and completed by the deadline set by this bill.

It is clear that an emergency exists and that this hazard presents a grave danger and significant risk of life-threatening illness to exposed workers. If OSHA will not act, then Congress must act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN
CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to once again introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Currently, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any non-citizen who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable and is far from what our Founders intended when they drafted our Constitution. It undermines the very concept of citizenship as enshrined in the United States Constitution: to be constitutionally entitled to U.S. citizenship one must be “born . . . in the United States” and “subject to the jurisdiction thereof.” This second, and most important, part means that in order to gain U.S. citizenship one must owe and actively express allegiance to the United States in addition to the act of being born on United States soil.

Practically, what the current state of affairs does is cheapen citizenship. Rather than impart all the obligations and responsibilities of being an American, it becomes merely a ticket to welfare and other Federal benefits. The history of the United States is that of immigrants, but previously individuals from diverse backgrounds accepted the obligations of citizenship in exchange for the great benefits of living in the United States as Americans.

This proposed constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It

cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state. I hope my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

**SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT
AND DEMOCRATIC KOSOVO**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from official travel as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission to several locations in Europe and the Middle East. One stop was Kosovo, which is presently high on the international agenda.

As we all know, the Special Envoy for the UN Secretary-General, former Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari, has submitted a comprehensive proposal for settling the status of Kosovo. If adopted, the proposal would end the eight years of limbo in which Kosovo has found itself since the NATO intervention ended a long period of brutality and repression by Serbian authorities under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic. Nevertheless, some countries represented on the UN Security Council have problems with the Ahtisaari plan, and Russian opposition, based at least in part on issues having little if anything to do with Kosovo and the Balkans, would doom action at the United Nations. Last week's G-8 summit failed to break the impasse within the international community.

During my stay in Kosovo, I was thoroughly briefed by the U.S. Office in Pristina, led by Tina Kaidanow, as well as by Brigadier General Douglas Earhart of the 29th Infantry Division, who commands U.S. forces in Kosovo as well as multinational task force located in the southeast portion of Kosovo. The head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, German Ambassador Werner Wnendt, provided the perspective of one of the international missions in the field. I also had the opportunity to meet the Kosovo Prime Minister, the Minister for Communities and Returns and representatives of the Kosovo "Unity Team." I traveled to Mitrovica where I also met representatives of the Serb community, and I visited areas at different locations where housing has been built to accommodate the return of those Serbs and Roma displaced by violence.

Based on my observations, I support the Ahtisaari proposal. It provides for independence for Kosovo, which I believe can be justified on grounds of what happened in Kosovo under Serbian rule as well as the right of self-determination, a right included in the Helsinki Final Act. The overwhelming majority of the people of Kosovo want independence, and the United Nations made it a credible possibility in Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted at the end of the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

At the same time, and perhaps more important, the Ahtisaari proposal contains provisions regarding the decentralization of powers to Serb-majority municipalities, numerous human rights protections for ethnic communities, and the protection of religious and cultural heritage sites so important to the Serb community. If implemented, these provisions offer a good possibility for the Serb and other non-Albanian communities to survive in what would be a multi-ethnic Kosovo. Independence would be

supervised by the international community, to ensure both a smooth transfer of authority and full implementation of the proposal.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remain naturally concerned about the human rights situation in Kosovo. My priority is a Kosovo where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, and where democracy, tolerance and the rule of law are established, regardless of the course or outcome of deliberations on Kosovo's status. Such a Kosovo does not yet exist; many problems remain. I do believe, however, that in a situation where no answers are easily found the Ahtisaari plan has the best potential to achieve these goals, and I will work to ensure that the Helsinki Commission encourages their achievement even after status is determined.

I wish to conclude my remarks, Madam Speaker, by announcing my intention to cosponsor House Resolution 309, expressing the sense of the House that the United States should support independence for Kosovo. Some of the concerns expressed in an alternative piece of legislation, House Resolution 445, are ones that I share, but continued delay on this issue helps nobody on the ground. The Ahtisaari proposal, in addition to addressing status, provides a means for securing the return and sustainability of the Serb and other ethnic communities in Kosovo, and I believe the people of the region would be best served by trying to make its provisions a reality.

**HONORING MSGT RICHARD J.
BRULE UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Richard J. Brule, as he retires from the United States Air Force. MSgt Brule hails from Colorado Springs, CO and enlisted in the USAF on May 14th, 1987. During his tenure, he has consistently shown leadership and motivational skills in training other personnel in various skills.

MSgt. Brule began his Air Force career as an experienced mechanic and while at Nellis A1C, helped to establish a "Self Help" bay by building, supplying and mounting a tool shadow board in the minor maintenance section. This project enabled local organizations to perform their own minor maintenance which helped to clear the work order backlog, often returning vehicles to service within the same day. Continuing his exemplary service, Brule was selected as "Airman of the Quarter" while stationed at RAF Bentwaters in the UK. During operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Brule played a key role in preparing and deploying 120 vehicles to the AOR.

Shortly after arriving at Aviano AFB in Italy in 1992, Brule was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His mechanical knowledge and management skills led to his selection as NCOIC of the Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Center. In 1996, SSgt Brule was assigned to F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming and was selected as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the 90th Security Forces Squadron Vehicle Repair Station, where he was responsible for the maintenance of 125 rapid response vehi-

cles. Within a year of arriving at Sembach Annex, Germany, SSgt Brule was again promoted, this time to Technical Sergeant, where he assumed a great deal of responsibility. Finally, in 2006, MSgt Brule arrived at the 1st Detachment, 345th Training Squadron at Naval Base Ventura County, in my Congressional District. MSgt. Brule is currently teaching the gas phase and pipeline.

It is my pleasure to submit this to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, recognizing the character and dedication of MSgt Brule, upon his retirement.

**HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE DAN
MONTGOMERY**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Chief of Police Dan Montgomery, of Westminster, Colorado.

Chief Montgomery's retirement was news in my district, and I believe it is fitting to honor his public service in the Denver metropolitan area for nearly four decades. Chief Montgomery has served as the Chief of Police in Westminster for more than 24 years. Such a life-long commitment to public safety is deserving of special recognition.

Dan Montgomery is passionate about protecting the public and realized early in his life that his calling was to serve in the police force. From his first job as a campus police officer, to his leadership as a police chief for one of Colorado's fastest growing suburban communities, Chief Montgomery has demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding law and order in our society. As a field officer, he will be remembered for his work on the Leeora Rose Looney case in Lakewood, Colorado, in 1971. Chief Montgomery leaves a professional legacy as a law enforcement official who always "supported his troops."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Police Chief Montgomery, and others in the law enforcement community just like him, for their steadfast commitment to justice and public safety. We also recognize Chief Dan Montgomery's leadership and fortitude. I am also proud to acknowledge Police Chief Montgomery's accomplishments as noted in the following article published by the Westminster Window on May 24, 2007.

POLICE CHIEF SET TO CAP CAREER

(By Rachel Ceccarelli)

Westminster Police Chief Dan Montgomery says he is ready to finish his 45-year career in law enforcement.

Montgomery will retire as Chief of Police on June 1, and Deputy Chief Lee Birk will take the lead.

"It just dawned on me one day that I have been married to my wife Bonnie for 46 years and been a police officer for 45," Montgomery said. "It was just time."

Montgomery says he decided it was time to retire and devote more time to his wife, grown children and granddaughter.

Nonetheless, he plans to continue doing some part-time police consulting.

Montgomery has been the Westminster Police Chief for more than 24 years.